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The Highlander

Thursday June 11 2026 | Issue 743

INSIDE: SKYLINE BUSTS A MOVE PAGE 23 FREE

Algonquin Highlands firefighters attended a structure fire on North Shore Road June 9. Despite recent rain, fire officials said the County is still at risk. *Photo by Adam Frisk.*

Forest fire risk high in County

By Adam Frisk
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

While a recent string of wet weather has been well-received, Haliburton County's fire services are standing together with a single message: the wildland fire risk is high across the region.

The long stretch of dry weather has left the forest floor across all four townships vulnerable, leaving municipalities to raise the fire danger level to "high." Both Highlands East and Algonquin Highlands issued a statement on social media and their websites, warning of the fire threat.

"Please note that the fire rating within the Township of Algonquin Highlands has been moved to high. Daytime burning is prohibited this time of year," the municipality said in the statement. "If you are burning at nighttime, please take extra caution and ensure your fire is fully extinguished."

The four townships use roadside signage to indicate municipal burn allowances throughout the year, but not the daily

Continued **'Conditions'** on page 7

Red Hawk soars to national Terry Fox honour

By Mike Baker

Hal High's Aurora Wesley received "the biggest honour of her life" last week, becoming the first person from the County to win the prestigious Terry Fox Humanitarian Award.

The Grade 12 student was one of 15 youth from across Canada recognized, earning a $30,000 scholarship after years of community service, leadership, academic excellence and involvement in sport across the Highlands.

Established in 1982, the award is presented annually to students who embody Terry Fox's spirit at the grassroots level in their home community. It's open to anyone aged 17 to 25.

Wesley said she learned about the award last fall from Brett Caputo, guidance teacher at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School. She was one of 3,899 applicants.

"It's kind of a niche award – you have to tick so many boxes, having humanitarian experience along with athletics, some kind of work background and academics. But you also need to have gone through some kind of hardship in your life, something you've had to overcome, like Terry did," Wesley said.

In her application, submitted in November, Wesley talked about how, when she was in Grade 4, she ran a 'wig out' fundraiser at J.D. Hodgson Elementary School that raised $1,000 for cancer research. She said the event was inspired by her godmother, who died from cancer earlier that year.

"I cut all my hair off and inspired four or five other students to do the same,"

Continued **'Service'** on page 2

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Service above self resonates

Continued from page 1

Wesley said. "We had a huge school assembly… it was pretty exciting for an 11-year-old to feel like they are part of something bigger."

As a pre-teen, Wesley was also involved in 4-H programming, inspired by her years of growing up on a farm. Once in high school, she joined the Interact club – a branch of Rotary for younger people. She helped with more than a dozen food and toy drives and also assisted with fundraising efforts for Hal High's sister school – Mahatma Gandhi Sishu Siksha Sadan School in northern India.

The Interact club's mantra of 'service above self' really resonated with her.

"That's how I've wanted to live my life for as long as I can remember. Joining enabled me to work with a team of like-minded people to tackle projects at the community, national and international level," Wesley said.

She was also part of the group who helped bring the outdoor classroom at Hal High to life in 2024.

On the athletic side, she played field hockey and basketball and was part of the school's wrestling and track and field teams. Away from school, she held jobs at Kawartha Dairy, Heather Lodge and Camp Wanakita.

Last fall, a sudden change at home saw Wesley's household go from two incomes to one, which made it difficult for the family to make ends meet.

"We had to turn to the community for help and I'm really grateful for having such a supportive community in Haliburton County that we were able to get help from the local food banks," Wesley said. "It was kind of a full circle moment for me because I received one of the gifts that I helped bring in for the teen gift drive at Christmas.

"I was passionate about helping before, but kind of felt like somebody on the outside looking in. Now, having gone through that experience, I can really relate more. I connect with others differently and approach service differently… with a level of empathy and understanding that I didn't have before," she added.

Hal High's Aurora Wesley in Ottawa with MP Jamie Schmale. *Submitted.*

Surreal moment

Wesley was completing her kinesiology homework one evening in April when she received a call from Vancouver. It was Kirsten Fox, the eldest niece of Terry Fox.

"I was in shock, just started crying right away," Wesley said, noting she met Fox in Ottawa last week. She spent two days with fellow award recipients, forming connections with some of the country's top up-and-coming leaders.

There was also a visit to Parliament Hill, where Wesley got to watch Question Period and meet with local MP Jamie Schmale and speaker of the House of Commons, MP Francis Scarpaleggia. There was also a brief interaction with prime minister Mark Carney.

"We didn't get to talk to him, but he walked by us and called us a 'well-behaved bunch'."

Wesley will be attending Western University in London in the fall, taking business administration with a focus in finance for the first two years and then transitioning to an honours business administration (HBA) at Ivey Business School. She's thinking about going to law school after completing her undergrad, eying a career in health care policy development or hospital management.

Hal High principal Jennifer Mills said Wesley is a credit to the school and deserving of the accolade.

"Aurora is a truly exceptional individual who leads with both heart and purpose… she consistently steps outside her comfort zone to help and make the experiences for others better," Mills said. "It has been a privilege to watch her grow in confidence at HHSS, realizing her own power to make a difference."

Wesley said she hopes her win can help inspire future generations of students in the Highlands.

"It's amazing when a person from a small town wins such a big award," Wesley said.

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Public input sought for County review

By Lisa Gervais

The County of Haliburton, through consultant the Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN), has launched a community survey and announced five town halls as part of its affordability and governance study.

On April 8, council unanimously endorsed the review; looking for ways to simplify government processes and provide better value for taxpayers.

Beginning Monday (June 8), residents and business owners across the Highlands have been invited to share their ideas.

The County said the study team has developed a community engagement plan with opportunities for as many people as possible to share ideas.

Any decisions around the future of Haliburton County will be made by the 2026-30 councils.

"Through the study, we want to have an open discussion about how municipalities can deliver services in a way that is practical and affordable for taxpayers while also protecting what makes our communities special," warden Dave Burton said. "I invite everyone in Haliburton County to take part in the engagement process and help shape our future."

Open house dates:

- Tuesday, June 23, 2-4 p.m. at the Haliburton Legion.
- Tuesday, June 23, 6-8 p.m. at the Lloyd Watson Memorial Community Centre in Wilberforce.
- Wednesday, June 24, 6-8 p.m., virtual open house. Visit wadein.haliburtoncounty.ca to register. Registration is not required to attend the in-person open house sessions.
- Thursday, June 25, 2-4 p.m. at the Dorset Recreation Centre in Algonquin Highlands.
- Thursday, June 25, 6-8 p.m. at the Minden Community Centre.

The public survey is available from June 8-28 at wadein.haliburtoncounty.ca and should take about 10 minutes to complete. Paper copies are also available at local municipal offices and libraries.

Five public open houses are scheduled for people to share their thoughts and ideas. Each in-person open house will include a presentation from the study team that begins 30 minutes after doors open. Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and share feedback.

The County has written the minister of municipal affairs and housing for financial support – with the cost estimated at $100,000 to $150,000 – and the review to be completed by the end of this July.

County of Haliburton CAO Gary Dyke. *File.*

CAO Gary Dyke told council in the spring that independent scenario modelling can evaluate options ranging from targeted shared services and functional consolidations to a transition to a single-tier governance model, providing clear forecasts of tax and levy impacts over five, 10 and 20 years. He added the study would identify one-time implementation and transition costs.

"A comprehensive study will strengthen any provincial funding request and demonstrate that local measures to 'get our house in order' have been thoroughly examined," he added.

POLICE BOARD NEWS

Service challenge coins

Members of the Haliburton Highlands detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police will soon have an opportunity to receive service challenge coins for a job well done.

Detachment board chairman, Andrew Fletcher, brought a request from station commander, Deb McClure, for support and money to purchase the coins from a Quebec distributor.

The topic of employee recognition was raised at a May 27 meeting.

Fletcher said the OPP has formal award processes, but, in addition to that, McClure approached him about doing something "with more of a local flavour."

OPP service challenge coins are commemorative medallions awarded to officers by superiors for exemplary service, going above and beyond the call of duty, or to mark retirements and special unit anniversaries.

Fletcher said he liked the idea of giving them out in a timely manner, versus waiting until careers end. He added they could perhaps have a little ceremony at a board meeting when someone receives a coin. He added it's something officers could carry as a reminder of good deeds.

"By doing this, we hopefully will continue to reinforce within the membership good duties and going above and beyond… and just a chance to acknowledge and say thanks."

He said they had the $800 in the board budget to purchase 100 coins.

Member Andy Chvedukas, who did police work for 27 years, thought it was a great idea, especially since "the job is not becoming any easier. It's become harder. And every time you are recognized for doing work above and beyond, you appreciate it. It is a confidence-building type of thing, too."

Member Andrew Hodgson echoed the support, telling a story about how a police officer recently helped an elderly couple in the middle of the night by changing their car tire on the side of the road.

The board gave its unanimous support.

Hodgson reappointed

Hodgson has been formally re-appointed as a community member on the board.

He received a letter from solicitor general Michael S. Kerzner dated May 1, and tabled at the meeting.

The appointment is for a period not to exceed two years, effective from May 14, 2026.

(Haliburton Highlands OPP police detachment board news compiled by Lisa Gervais)

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Highlander news

No trolls

Minden finishes building, planning review

By Lisa Gervais

Businesses and individuals getting development approvals from the Township of Minden Hills are expected to see improvements in coming months and years.

The township, on May 28, endorsed consultants' recommendations – allowing staff to further develop an implementation plan.

CAO Cynthia Fletcher pitched the review late last June and J.L. Richards & Associates Limited got the job in mid-September.

Alison Luoma, a senior planner, and Emily Hazell, principal consultant, delivered their findings last week. They said the intent of the review "is to strengthen and modernize how planning and building approvals are delivered - ensuring the process is efficient, customer-focused, and able to respond to growing development demand."

The 33-page overview, from a 104-page report, provided feedback that included: "while staff are professional and committed, decision-making is cautious and sometimes slow, particularly for routine matters." They were told there is limited clarity around timelines, expectations, and accountability that contributes to uncertainty. Others said the process is complex and difficult to navigate.

They suggested a good step is to leverage the strategic planning process now underway at the township – to align council's priorities with the ongoing modernization of planning and building services.

Fletcher said the final strategic plan will be coming to council this summer.

Some other suggestions include developing and publishing a consolidated development approvals manual; enhancing digital communication and applicant-facing tools, resources, and information; and undertaking a comprehensive review of development application fees and cost recovery. They suggested phasing in changes, starting within one year, one to three years, and three years-plus.

Fletcher told council, "this review takes a holistic approach, examining not only current processes, but also governance, organizational structure, service delivery, and customer experience. The review incorporates stakeholder input, best practices, and opportunities to modernize tools, policies, and workflows."

Coun. Ivan Ingram asked if any follow-up work would require outside help. The consultant said larger initiatives might require support.

Coun. Tammy McKelvey commented they did not have to reinvent the wheel, and could use practices from other townships, such as Dysart et al. She added that looking at this process is "probably one of the most important things during her term of council." She requested monthly reports to begin, but Fletcher insisted on quarterly reports, saying there would not be enough to report back on monthly.

Mayor Bob Carter said what was being recommended was "transformational." He noted pressure on staff, dealing with day-to-day requests from the public, on top of the consultant's recommendations.

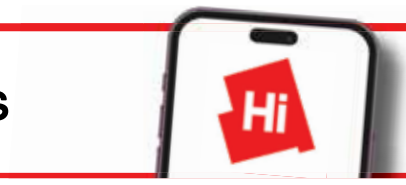
He asked J.L Richards if they had experience with other organizations facing similar challenges and how they were able to meet recommended timelines.

The consultant said they collaborated with township staff on the review and felt suggestions were not unreasonable. They said things were already happening, or being worked towards. They encouraged flexible timelines with a focus on customers.

"Get the foundation work going, and it already is going, and that can lead into some of those larger ones."

CAO Cynthia Fletcher pushed for the development approvals review. *File.*

No tech bros



Dr. Lesslie Ponraja is the sole physician remaining at the Kinmount and District Health Centre. *File.*

Kinmount health centre to hire at least one new doctor

By Mike Baker

Volunteer Alan Howard said it's been a "challenging year" at the Kinmount and District Health Centre (KDHS), culminating in the loss of one of its two family physicians, Dr. Mimi Van der Leden, last month.

Van der Leden, a Canadian national, left her position May 15. She joined KDHC in February 2025 after years of practicing in the United States.

"Her reasons for leaving the centre were personal," said new KDHC chair Chris Weerdenburg. Howard added, "it was not what anybody wanted, but that's just the way the cookie crumbles sometimes."

Van der Leden had rostered approximately 500 patients during her time with the clinic, with Weerdenburg saying some of those have been taken on Dr. Lesslie Ponraja and others by a family doctor in Bobcaygeon.

Howard said the KDHC team has been actively recruiting for a replacement for Van der Leden, though told members at a June 8 annual general meeting that the process would now be handled by Cindy Snider, physician recruitment lead for the City of Kawartha Lakes. Previously, volunteer board members had sought out candidates, conducted interviews and arranged community visits.

"Cindy has been very involved in helping us for many years, now we're just stepping up her involvement. She will become the primary point person for all candidates," Howard said.

Speaking at the meeting, Snider said she was working on several leads.

"Here's hoping we can recruit another physician or two to your medical centre," Snider said, though no timeframe was given. Weerdenburg said Ponraja will also play a key role in hiring, with the board available for consultation.

Speaking to fundraising, Kim Restivo Galea noted it has been a successful year for the KDHS volunteer foundation. The 2025 journey for health event raised close to $17,000, with the Christmas appeal bringing in just over $13,800. In total, the organization brought in $84,309 in its 2025-26 fiscal year, with all funds reinvested back into the clinic, located at 5100 County Rd. 503.

As well as primary care, the space also boasts a physiotherapy clinic, foot care clinic, pharmacy, dental hygienist and specimen collection room.

There will be a major change to this year's journey for health fundraiser, Restivo Galea said. While the event has traditionally been held on the second Sunday in August, organizers are pivoting to the third Saturday in September.

"Hopefully that will get us away from the extreme weather and lead to a greater turnout," she said.

There was some turnover at boardroom level, with Yvette Braurer, Lee Ann Hobson, Lois Jackson and Jim Scott stepping down after service ranging from 18 months to nine years. There are three new faces joining – Jenna Brown, Marina Hodson and Holly Lougheed.

New executive director of children's aid

The Kawartha Haliburton Children's Aid Society (KHCAS) has a new executive-director as of next week.

Amanda Baker-Colacicco officially starts June 15. She is the former executive director of Family & Children's Services of Frontenac, Lennox & Addington.

Via a KHCAS press release, the new staff lead said, "the most meaningful change comes from working respectfully alongside communities and partners, with a focus on equitable and accessible supports."

Board chair Len Lifchus thanked interim ED Rosaleen Cutler, for helping the organization "through challenging times." She was appointed as a supervisor before becoming ED.

Lifchus said the new board hired a consultant for the recruitment with the board making a final decision in mid-April.

"Amanda is a seasoned child welfare executive with extensive statutory, operational, and governance leadership experience across Ontario's child welfare system," LIfchus said.

He added she is a registered social worker with advanced executive leadership training. She'll oversee a strategic plan and finish a deficit management plan and operational review work plan. *(Lisa Gervais)*

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Haliburton drop-in making a difference

By Mike Baker

The Coming Full Circle pilot program offering support to people with mental health and substance use challenges has recorded 900 visits since launching last September. Now, program co-ordinator David Barkley is trying to find a way to keep the initiative running long-term.

The program was announced in spring 2025 as a two-year partnership between Point in Time, the Canadian Mental Health Association Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge (CMHA-HKPR) and the Haliburton County Connections Committee. It was funded through a one-time $800,000 grant via Health Canada's substance use and addictions program.

That money runs out this year, with Barkley looking for other potential revenue streams to keep the Haliburton village drop-in running.

"To get approved, we had to show there was a need. Now we've proven the need is there and we have a successful program that people are accessing, so our next steps need to be about longevity," Barkley said. "Future funding is going to dictate how long, but also what more we could offer."

He said the drop-ins typically attract between 10 and 20 people. Because of the positive response, Barkley said they've expanded from being open twice a week to at least three days. They run Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and every second and fourth Friday from 5 to 8 p.m. at 83 Maple Ave. Unit 7A.

Barkley was one of the speakers at a Haliburton Kawartha Lakes Northumberland Drug Strategy symposium, held in Lindsay May 28. He told attendees that the key to his program's success has been using people with lived experience of substance use or mental health issues to connect with those struggling.

Ashley Smoke, coordinator with the Haliburton Kawartha Lakes Northumberland Drug Strategy, at a recent symposium held in Lindsay. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

"We provide a space where people can talk to us about their struggles and not feel judged. We're connecting more with the person themselves, more so than the substances they're using," Barkley said. "It's about building real trust with people."

Ashley Smoke, the local drug strategy co-ordinator, said her organization is committed to hosting meet-ups between service providers at least once per year.

She talked about the four-pillar approach many community organizations use to support people – prevention, treatment, harm reduction and community safety. She said partners work on solutions to help decrease substance use related harms.

"During the pandemic, there wasn't a lot of this kind of thing going on and that contributed to things kind of spiralling out of control. A lot of people fell through the cracks," Smoke said. "I have lived experience and when I moved to this area five years ago, there was nothing like this. I was left without a lot of support on my journey."

She said some of the more common drugs she sees being used in the region now are medetomidine, fentanyl and an even more highly-potent strain of opioids known as nitazenes. Smoke said those in the field are still familiarizing themselves with the impacts of newer drugs entering the system.

"We're going into a new age. We finally got used to what overdoses looked like and how to treat them, but now with some of these newer substances, it's scary… Naloxone doesn't help in a lot of instances, so we don't know how to treat or help people," Smoke said.

Lakelands Public Health's Dr. Thomas Piggott also presented, tracing the beginnings of the drug crisis back to what he sees as the overprescribing of certain oxycodones and the dependency issues they present. Tim Farquharson, police chief in Port Hope, spoke about the ways officers have been trained to deal with mental health and addictions episodes. The John Howard Society presented on the importance of establishing community integrated care hubs, prioritizing holistic care for people rather than detox and rehab.

Mary Sisson, manager of the Youth Wellness Hub in Haliburton, also attended. She said more young people are turning to drugs to deal with life's stresses.

She said the youth hub has a full-time nurse practitioner, care co-ordinator, mental health and substance use clinician and a therapist who works with neurodivergent youth, who are all busy tackling the problem.

"When we work with older youth, substance use starts to show up a little more," she said, noting youth there have reported using various substances from alcohol and cannabis to more illicit drugs. "When they come in, they're not asking for support with substance use or addiction, but through conversations and building trust we see those issues start to present."

Creating a safe space for these people to escape their everyday pressures has been key to turning their situations around, Sisson said.

Through their PreVenture program, aimed at those aged 12 to 18, the youth hub hosts various workshops designed to help students learn useful coping skills, set long-term goals and channel their personality towards achieving them.

"These kids like to feel safe and a sense of belonging. Our focus is definitely more on prevention, but we have to build up to that point," Sisson said.

Conditions dryer in southeast of County

Continued from page 1

environmental fire hazard ratings that are posted on their websites.

"It's the burn levels. It's not the fire danger rating," explained County fire co-ordinator Michael French, who speaks as a unified voice for all four local departments. "It's your burn opportunities."

The County is operating under a uniform "yellow" condition, which permits open-air burning strictly between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. No daytime burning is allowed anywhere in the County between April 1 and Oct. 31, and grass fires are entirely prohibited.

According to data from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) and the Aviation, Forest Fire and Emergency Services (AFFES), the recent storms brought heavy rain to portions of the County while other areas saw less, leaving the forest floor to dry out at different rates.

Provincial officials rely on the Canadian Forest Fire Weather Index, a system maintained by Natural Resources Canada, to map the risk. Currently, the County's fine fuel moisture code, which measures the dryness of forest debris, remains in the low to moderate range. However, the Build Up Index (BUI), which calculates the moisture buried in the forest floor, tells a different story.

"The BUI is primarily in the moderate range across the area, with higher values in the southeast portion of Sector E01, Haliburton's primary area of fire responsibility," Evan Lizotte, information officer with the AFFES, explained to *The Highlander.*

While township fire chiefs have the authority to declare municipal fire bans within their borders, a worsening dry spell could trigger a broader provincial response. AFFES said that should conditions get to a point where any open-air fire poses a threat, or if active wildland fires begin stretching provincial response systems thin, the MNR can step in with a blanket Restricted Fire Zone (RFZ).

"They are implemented by the MNR when conditions are so hazardous that an open-air fire of any kind, no matter how well tended, could represent a real threat to the surrounding area by escaping or spreading out of control," Lizotte said.

"RFZs are also implemented when there are increased fires on the landscape that may impact our response capacity, and any new fire starts would put pressure on our response system managing existing wildland fires.

Fire bans are imposed by a local municipality within municipal boundaries. An RFZ and a fire ban can be in place at the same time."

The good news is that for now, provincial officials said the current conditions are well within normal expectations for early June.

"Periods of dry and wet weather are a normal part of our climate," Lizotte said, noting that while weather systems can occasionally cause longer dry stretches, "the current conditions in early June are not out of the ordinary compared to the past few years."

The County fire co-ordinator noted that residents and visitors have been following the rules and that fire calls have not been driven by carelessness.

"We have had a lot of significant bushfires over the last little while, but none are the cause of human error. They're all natural fires," French said. "The majority of them are power lines, but there's been no fires that have been caused by human error, or people burning outside the rules, which is nice to see."

He said that because residents and cottagers are following the rules, local fire chiefs chose to hold off on escalating the County into a "red" condition, a total fire ban, last week.

"We did have the opportunity to put a fire ban on last week," French said. "We chose not to because we didn't want to penalize the people when they were following the rules. We had no issues."

Editorial opinion

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To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

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Hug a tree

By Lisa Gervais

If a tree falls in the forest, does it make a sound?

If a tree – or in my case – three trees are dropped to the ground on your property – the noise most definitely resonates.

Last week, I had to have three towering white pine trees removed from my property. I'd guess they were 100 years old. They began as saplings long before I purchased this land. In fact, they were young trees when my cottage was built by Francis Thomas Contracting in the 1930s.

It was these trees that first attracted me to the home. I accidentally left some personal belongings in the garage when realtor, Jeff Strano, first showed me the place in 2016. I had to wait for him to return to unlock the shed door. I lay on the back deck and looked up. One of these pines spoke to my soul and a decision was made to put in an offer.

The trees and I co-existed pretty happily, minus the fallen pine needles, sap, and massive puffs of pollen clouds that irritated my allergies.

On summer nights in particular, gathered around a fire, I would look up, way up, and the pines would provide a canopy touching the stars and Milky Way.

Our relationship might have continued but for the ice storms of 2025 and 2026. I was paralyzed as limbs crashed around and onto the roof. I have post traumatic stress disorder from the '25 storm. I discovered that this spring as I secured the pets and literally fled to a friend's house for the day. I couldn't face another night of limbs dropping, so booked into a local hotel. I knew then that something had to give. I no longer felt safe in my own home. And I worried for neighbours, as trees were precariously close to their homes as well.

I had my tree guy come in. Kelly Outram loves trees as much as I do. I explained the situation and he understood that safety of person and property unfortunately made the removal necessary.

It was a terrible decision to have to make. Those who know me know I am the quintessential tree hugger.

So, last Wednesday night, before the crane and chainsaws arrived, I spent some time with the three sisters. I thanked them for holding space on the land, for paying witness to season after season. For supplying oxygen and habitat. I apologized for having to take them down. I smudged them with sage. And, yes, I hugged each one, one last time. And I am not going to lie. I cried.

I'm sure there are other Highlanders who have had to go through a similar experience – or will have to in the future. We have chosen to live among the trees, and with that comes great joy, and great anguish.

But, in the end, I feel good about my decision, and I am happy that the crew that came to do the work treated the trees with the reverence they deserved.

My parting words: go hug a tree.

Why we run those ads

By Mike Baker

Over the past couple of weeks, *The Highlander* has caught some flak for a series of ads we've received from the Ontario government. We've published three letters from readers upset about the ads' rhetoric – and we understand why.

The ads are visually bold and almost come across like a war-time-era poster designed to instill faith and belief, while also displaying strength. They've been touting premier Doug Ford and his government's commitment to intentions, if not achievements, in sectors including mining, policing, and nuclear power generation.

One letter urged us to reject these ads. If only it were that simple.

There are two reasons we accept these ads – one technical and the other financial.

The technical reason is that we belong to AdReach, a unit of the Ontario Community Newspaper Association (OCNA) that sells advertising on behalf of its members to large advertisers we typically can't get in a room, or on the phone with – never mind convince them to take out an ad. OCNA members must accept and publish all ads that AdReach sends.

The reason the Ontario government ads seem so prominent is because so few other large advertisers in Ontario, or Canada, are advertising with community newspapers.

Which brings us to the second reason we run the ads – money. When *The Highlander* started in 2011, AdReach would send us advertisements from many of the major car manufacturers – Ford, General Motors, Chrysler. Community papers also got big, profitable full-page ads from banks, insurance companies, telecommunications firms and big box stores.

By spending a relatively small share of their advertising budgets on local media, corporate Canada supported small community newspapers, who in turn reported on local news and sustained jobs.

Today, most of that spending has disappeared. Major companies, as well as our federal government, have largely stopped advertising in community newspapers. Instead, they prefer getting their message out on social media, sending their ad dollars to unaccountable foreign companies.

We've written before about the drawbacks of social media – how it's becoming more difficult to decipher real news from fiction, the many privacy concerns. But it's been a financial death knell for Canadian publications for years.

It should be noted that just because there are Ontario government ads in the paper, or we're supported by the federal government through its local journalism initiative program, we never allow this to impact our coverage. Read *The Highlander* or listen to the *What the Haliburton* podcast and we're sure you won't find any punches pulled when it comes to reporting on federal or provincial governments. We would never compromise reporting for ad revenue.

While we appreciate the Ford government stepping up – he says the purpose of the ads is to support local media – we'd prefer to be in a position to choose whether to run them. Or have more large advertisers in our paper so the Ontario ads don't stick out.

Since no one else has stepped up, including the feds, the Ontario ads are prominent. Unfortunately, they're critical for the survival of many papers.

If you don't think newspapers should have to rely on government advertising to stay afloat, say something. Next time you're in a box store or making a major purchase, tell the manager you want to see their ads in local papers. Make those purchases with companies who do advertise locally.

National brands have turned their backs on local media, but many of their dealerships and franchisees have kept the faith, supporting this paper you enjoy and rely on. They will appreciate getting a better return on their marketing investment and you'll be keeping your dollars in the community to support families and jobs.

So, just because we run an ad in our newspaper it doesn't mean we support the message. *The Highlander* is stuck between the proverbial rock and hard place.

To our loyal advertisers who support the paper every week – thank you, as always, for your support.

THEHIGHLANDER.CA

Editorial opinion

LETTERS

Love and gratitude

Dear editor,

When we hear the words first responders, our minds gravitate to doctors, nurses, paramedics, and PSWs who care for humans.

But there are other heroes working tirelessly in animal clinics and hospitals, who step into that critical role for the creatures who hold our hearts. Veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and clinic staff, are the silent guardians for our fur families. They translate whimpers into diagnoses, absorb our panic, and offer gentle, steady hands when words aren't enough.

My wife, Kelly, and I learned just how deeply true that is as we faced one of the hardest days of our lives; having to say goodbye to our beloved Bernese Mountain Dog, Elliott.

Saying farewell to a soul as pure, loyal, and loving as Elliott leaves a void in our home. But amidst the crushing weight of grief, we found profound comfort in the incredible team at Haliburton Veterinary Services.

You are the absolute embodiment of what it means to be a hero. You didn't just treat a dog; you cared for a cherished member of our family. Throughout the last few years of Elliott's life, especially at the end, you were our steadfast guides. You treated him with dignity, love, and compassion we'll never forget.

We extend profound gratitude to Dr. Asia Lemachko, Dr. Jessica Patterson, and Dr. Alex Durfy. Your medical expertise was matched by incredible bedside manner. You guided us through difficult decisions with grace and empathy. Thanks to animal health technician, Evonne, for your gentle touch, soothing voice, and constant reassurance when Elliott needed it most. To Michelle, Judy, and the entire front-of-clinic staff, thank you for greeting us with warmth, managing our anxious calls with patience, and creating an environment of deep comfort and safety.

In his final moments, surrounded by the incredible angels at Haliburton Veterinary Services, Elliott was safe, comfortable, and knew he was loved.

From Kelly, me, and most importantly, Elliott—thank you.

Mike and Kelly Killingsworth
Haliburton

Deflecting from real issues

Dear editor,

I was saddened and distressed to see the back-to-back ads paid for by the citizens of Ontario re: homelessness and the bail system.

These ads, instead of seeking compassionate solutions to the issues of homelessness and crime, serve to demonize the most vulnerable in our society.

Ontario is one of the three safest, least crime-ridden provinces in Canada. By exploiting peoples' prejudices and fears about the unhoused and the incarcerated, this government hopes to distract voters from the real issues we face everyday.

This government spends the least per capita of all the provinces on health care. Ontario has the fewest number of hospital beds per capita. Hospitals are forced to pay 'private duty nurses' working for private-for-profit agencies, due to the systematic reduction of nurses throughout the province by the Ford government.

Despite having the largest economy in the country and the highest GDP, Ontario ranks among the lowest in education spending.

The next time you hear yourself complaining about the health-care-system, or your child's or grandchild's dwindling support in the classroom, think about the real reasons for these problems.

Funding is being diverted to grandiose schemes of putting a tunnel under the 401, expanding the Billy Bishop airport when Pearson is being overhauled to accommodate the increasing demand for air traffic, and subway routes that are unrealistic and fantastically expensive.

People experiencing homelessness and those caught in the criminal justice system could be our neighbours, family members and are our fellow citizens. They are not the problem but they sure are easy targets when trying to deflect people's attention from the real issues.

Claire Kindellan
Highlands East

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Reflections from a Hooded Merganser … let sunny skies and calmer waters prevail. Photo taken by Henry J. Stronks on East Moore Lake.

JOURNEYING TOGETHER

We were friends until the end

By Peter Ferri

We were acquaintances, just by living in the community we loved. People we kept meeting in different places, whether curling, bowling, or standing in line at the store. Especially the grocery store. Whatever the setting, it's some sort of energy at work. You connect on a high level and you start to communicate and open up, and over years, that acquaintance wakes up to a friendship. A casual friendship, yet a friendship.

My friend, whom I saw and spoke to a couple of weeks ago, is now gone; the physical part I loved, that always looked great, had a smile; was secure and confident and carried strength and honour. I say honour because they lived their lives with integrity. They gave, cared, participated. They made sure their home was absolutely precious.

Our communication came from the heart. Souls that cross and say 'hello'. I'm glad you showed up in my world. Thank you. We've had finished business, we've had ongoing things, we've had our purposes.

My friend a long time; soul friend now moved into another part of this life process. We would have had many more conversations. This would have been one of them if I'd made the next step happen sooner. I did not follow up, as I said I would. It's one of those casual comments like, 'come over and visit soon,' and you go on with life and know you will get around to that visit one day. Without commitment, it passes without notice.

I've posthumously had to say goodbye to a beautiful soul friend three times within the past few months. Community members that have meant a lot to me. I'm very sad for their loss.

Growing old, becoming an elder; someone that's been around the block 100 times… certainly is a beautiful thing, as well as a blessing living within a beautiful community.

The blessing of finding yourself standing inside the grocery store, on the corner missing the light, looking into another's eyes and smiling as we caught up. That kind of moment. That kind of knowing love of joy, peace and safety within our connection.

That is our relationship. We always asked for more. I'm sorry we won't have that now.

What I do know is that I am still in touch with you. Our energies can still dance. It's just transitioned to a different, yet familiar way of being. The people and souls I have been blessed to encounter.

I know many wonderful souls living in this amazing community. We meet occasionally throughout our busy lives. When we do, let's say 'hello' and share and dance inside of our relationship. Let's make sure that we always say 'goodbye'. And acknowledge our friendship like you may never have that opportunity again.

Thank you dear one. You are missed inside of this physical world. Goodbye dear friend.

What the HALIBURTON PODCAST

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THIS WEEK:

Why do turtles cross the road?

Highlander business

Just the Highlands

Martial arts studio opens doors in Minden

By Lisa Gervais

Kelly Outram has a new dojo in Minden. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

K.O. Martial Arts owner, Kelly Outram, says "air and sunlight make a world of difference" and there is plenty of both at his new dojo at 108 Golf Course Rd. in Minden.

A dojo is a hall or place for immersive and experiential learning - traditionally in the field of martial arts.

The business used to operate in rented space in the basement of the Stedmans Mall building in downtown Haliburton.

However, Outram decided to take the plunge and buy the former Happy Daze Automotive and his new dojo opened June 1.

"We hit the ground running with the first week because we've got a bunch of students from Haliburton, and most of them have transferred over," Outram said in an interview last week. He added, "being in the new space is phenomenal; aesthetically the environment is much nicer."

Outram said when he originally had the opportunity to take over the property, he knew it was going to take a great deal of work to convert a former garage into a dojo. Once the former owners cleaned things up, he put the work belt on.

They basically gutted the building – which features a wood frame and steel roof. They removed walls and pulled out old insulation, spray foaming instead. They patched leaks. He used boards from trees his business milled on the interior.

"I just put the boards all the way over the arch, similar to a tongue and groove. I guess it was what I envisioned when I was first asked if I wanted to buy this place. So, I'm really pleased."

Outram started K.O. Martial Arts in 2019, got sidetracked by the pandemic, and opened in Haliburton in 2022.

His studio offers combat sports such as jiu-jitsu and kickboxing for adults and kids and then qigong, tai chi and meditation. He also does personal training.

He said they have been slowly building over the years to now becoming established. "We have been bringing some students along to be quite skilled at this point, which I'm really thrilled about. The people that have been around the whole time are really good."

He stresses the combat aspect is safe. "We're not trying to learn to kill each other; it's for safety and fitness. You are learning how to defend yourself against someone who's trying to beat you up. That's where confidence comes from; if you know you can handle yourself against someone who's trying to hurt you, you're not scared of other humans as much as you would be otherwise."

He describes qigong as stretching and deep breathing. He's been doing it for years to help his body recover from tree work and martial arts. He said people who do yoga would understand the benefits of helping muscles and joints to soften and relax. He noted tai chi is more complex and requires more coordination.

He runs two classes for kids on Mondays, one for five-and-six-year-olds. He'd like more young students as it is a safe place for them to learn about the do's and don'ts of rough play. He said some kids need to learn to dial it back so they don't hurt anybody. Others need to learn that it is okay to step up and defend themselves.

Outram said as far back as 2015, he began thinking about opening his own dojo space and not being dependent on the whims of the rental market. But it was also a soul dream, too, with the new space "very me."

See more at haliburtonmartialarts.com

PUMP IT UP PROJECT
CALL FOR ARTWORK!
Dysart et al Cultural Resources Committee is calling out to artists to submit 2D visual artwork, either existing or new, to be used as an image for a vinyl wrap for a sewage pumping station located in the Village of Haliburton.
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It's nicer here

Highlander business

Dennis and Lori Pennie at OK Tire Minden - Minden Auto Care. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

Everything is A-OK at Minden Auto Care

By Lisa Gervais

Six months in the making, and Minden Auto Care will host the grand opening of its OK Tire Auto Service this Saturday (June 13).

Owner Dennis Pennie said their OK Tire rep was in the area in the winter and popped in to tell them about the opportunity to become part of the national network.

Dennis said he and wife, Lori, were intrigued and began to dig into it. A customer then told them about a family friend who owns one of the biggest OK Tires in Toronto, and urged the Pennies to reach out to him.

Dennis said he did just that, having a two-hour conversation.

"He pretty much had me sold then," Dennis said during an interview at his garage at 8 Water St. in Minden. "It opens up a whole new world for us."

For example, they can now do wholesale tires. They have also rented a small warehouse where they can now store customers' tires in between seasonal changes. Dennis said they are already up to about 150 sets of tires.

He added his customers can now go to the website, punch in their vehicle, and check tire inventory; rather than Lori having to get on the phone and call around to see what is available.

"This just makes life so much easier. We're going be able to keep a very good size inventory now." For the customer, he said it means better pricing and service. For example, he said if a cottager blows a tire, chances are they will be able to get a new one quickly. He hopes this will benefit the other Minden car service outlets as well.

Other advantages, the Pennies said, are national warranties and alliances with Carquest and NAPA Auto Parts. It will allow them to be able to afford uniforms for staff and to access a benefits plan.

The Pennies credit Jim Ecclestone with pushing them to make more improvements at the garage. It started with a facelift and addition of a Minden moose, and now being franchisees.

The members of the Minden Business Working Group and Minden Rotary added, "we all know that downtown has been suffering for quite a while." He said along with business improvements, attracting a national brand helps.

Dennis also believes that being under the OK Tire umbrella will allow his small business to connect more with the community. For example, they were able to offer a prize of a $1,000 gift certificate for tires at this past weekend's Minden Rotary gala dinner.

"We have a whole team behind us." He noted they have been permitted to keep the Minden Auto Care branding as long as it does not overwhelm the OK Tire Minden marketing. "We just added this to our toolbox, basically."

They've timed their grand opening on a busy weekend in Minden, that will also feature the Haliburton County Fair, farmers and artisans' markets, and the Dollo reunion.

He said Rotary will be cooking hot dogs and hamburgers. The Minden moose will make an appearance with moose memorabilia, and there will be a draw for a $500 gift certificate for tires. The event will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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And for anyone who suspects there might be a different way.

groundedgardens.ca/unfinished

This photograph by Annie Logan is just one of the high-quality images featured in *Oxtongue Inspires*. *Submitted*

Ox got your heart

By Adam Frisk
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

For more than a century, the winding waters of the Oxtongue River system, stretching from Algonquin Park down to Lake of Bays, have served as a muse for Canadian artists. The rugged landscape inspired iconic works by Tom Thomson, A.Y. Jackson, and A.J. Casson.

Now, a new hardcover book has captured the same rugged beauty that the Group of Seven famously did, but this time it's through a modern, multi-faceted lens.

On July 1, Oxtongue Lake for Arts and Culture (OLAC) will officially launch Oxtongue Inspires: *Through the Lens of Local Artists from Algonquin to Lake of Bays*. The project began over a year and a half ago when OLAC co-chair Jan Woods noticed a wealth of stunning photography from the area being posted on Facebook.

"I kept saying to them, 'You really should be doing something with this,'" Woods recalled in a recent telephone interview.

What started as an idea for a community keepsake evolved into a high-quality, 120-page, bound and printed in Canada, collectible coffee table book. *Oxtongue Inspires* features the work of 15 local amateur and professional photographers. Rather than issuing an open call for submissions, the OLAC committee directly selected established area photographers whose work demonstrated technical excellence.

"The uniqueness of this is that it's 15 different people from up here, not just one person and their story," Woods said, adding that each photographer has a dedicated, alphabetical chapter paired with an individual artist statement.

"We weren't looking for photographs, we were looking for photographers who excelled with their work," she said.

Woods explained that readers can expect a diverse visual journey through the local landscape, with high-quality images capturing everything from misty landscapes and vibrant northern lights to classic images of canoes and local wildlife like moose, loons, owls, and snapping turtles.

The coffee table book, which features a rich, velvety hardcover finish, earned high praise from renowned artist Janine Marson, noting that "a truer glimpse of Oxtongue could not be achieved any better than this."

Retailing at $60 per copy, the book will fund OLAC's community-based cultural operations. Since its founding in 2012, the volunteer-run non-profit has funded local historical plaques, organized art festivals, and raised money for regional health-care facilities.

Photographers will be present at the July 1 community event to sign copies of *Oxtongue Inspires*. Anyone who purchases a copy at the launch will be entered into a draw to win one of 15 original prints donated by the featured photographer. The event will be held at Oxtongue Lake Community Centre, from 11 to 2 p.m.

For those unable to attend the Canada Day celebration, the book can be purchased at local retailers, including the Algonquin Art Centre and Algonquin Outfitters.

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Mike Knight has launched a professional recording studio on his property on County Road 21. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

New studio apple of musician's eye

By Mike Baker

It was music to Mike Knight's ears this past weekend when, during an open house for his new venture Apple Tree Recording Studio, one of the visitors asked to test out his custom-made vocal booth.

While he readily admitted the quaint studio, located at 2061 County Road 21, is a far cry from the famous Abbey Road Studios close to where he grew up in London, England, Knight said it gives Highlands-based performers somewhere local to jam and refine their music.

The studio opened in December with Knight hosting an open house June 6 to try and get the word out. So far, he said he's had two artists schedule recordings, while he's been working with various local musicians for two albums he hopes to release in the near future.

"This is where the magic happens," Knight said, showing off vintage posters of hit bands like Queen, AC/DC, The Beatles, Led Zeppelin and Guns N' Roses, which adorn the walls. On a shelf sit figurines of some of Knight's most cherished artists – Queen frontman Freddie Mercury, Police drummer Stuart Copeland, Guns N' Roses guitarist Slash, Ramones singer Joey Ramone and Motorhead's Lemmy Kilmister.

The main room is a treasure trove of musical instruments, with a drum set, piano, countless guitars, a flute and various other percussion instruments. There's a separate sound room, where Knight works, and, off that, a fully soundproofed vocal booth. The three spaces are connected with screens that show the main track and where overdubs will be dropped in, allowing everyone to follow along no matter where they are.

Knight said he recently worked production for County musician Jodi Timgren on her single 'Masquerade', which came out in March. There have been collaborations with Albert Saxby and members of the Haliburton County Folk Society, too.

Through his other musical company, Makk Sound, Knight is routinely contracted to run sound at various County concerts. Most recently, he worked with Jessica Pearson and the East Wind for their Haliburton concert.

His love affair with music stretches back more than 40 years. He started playing bass when he was 17, playing with several start-up rock bands in the London area. While he never got his big break, Knight estimates he played about 500 gigs in his early years.

He was a sound engineer and road manager for various bands and went on to work in a prominent recording studio before relocating to Canada in 2012, after meeting his wife Kim. The couple moved to Haliburton County in 2022, with the studio a work in progress ever since.

One of the building's most interesting features – and this is by design, Knight notes – is that there isn't a straight line to be found on the interior. Outside, the structure is free-standing, meaning it isn't bolted down or fixed into place.

"Theoretically, the whole thing is floating. That allows the building to flex and move… as soon as you put a screw in to hold something together, you're allowing soundwaves to travel through that screw and up the wall, which impacts sound quality," Knight said.

"It's the same thinking on the inside… we want to make sure sound bounces. That's why we have all these baffles up – it's all about pushing low frequencies out into the room," he added.

Currently open during the evenings and on weekends, Knight said the studio is his retirement plan. Bookings are $75 per hour, which includes all recording and producing. There may be some pointers in songwriting, too, with Knight finally dusting off an old notepad filled with about 50 original pieces penned during his heyday in the 80s.

"I've recorded some demos, but nothing has actually been released. That's what I'm trying to do now, work with people who can sing just to give the songs a bit of life. That's next on my to-do list," Knight said.

For more information, visit www.makksound.com.

Highlander history

Remembering the days of the Sky Slider

By Adam Frisk
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

With the unofficial start to summer underway, and cottagers and visitors beginning to make the trek to the County, tourist attractions are starting to get busy.

There's one draw that has been long gone in the Highlands, but for many, they can still hear the click-click-click of Teflon sliders hitting track joints while kids scream as they test the limits of speed and gravity.

The Haliburton Sky Slider was the place to be from in the 1980s until its closure in the early 90s. For many cottagers and locals, it wasn't just a lure, it was a rite of passage.

"It was a bit of an attraction, there's no question about that. It was a great attraction," Dennis Gould Casey told *The Highlander* in a recent interview. "Kids loved it, just loved it."

He explained that the ride was the brainchild of Steve Bowskill, a local entrepreneur who owned a shop in town. He turned to Casey to help him make it a reality.

"It was just like building a road, but with super-elevated curves," Casey recalled.

Casey had the help of Fred Nimigon, who operated a dozer at the time, with the team having to clear land for a chairlift and blast through rock. Casey said the project allowed for a four-inch margin of error, but his team delivered the track within a single inch.

"The guy from the States [who laid the track] said that he normally spent two to three weeks fixing everything," Casey said. "We had it within one inch all the way down the hill.

"We were quite proud of ourselves," he said with a chuckle. The Sky Slider played a large role in driving local tourism for more than a decade, and it employed about 10 to 12 staff members daily to manage the chairlift, cart logistics, and ticket sales. The attraction also had a small arcade and a food stand.

The ride itself was pretty simple. Guests would take the chairlift, with carts hanging off the side, to get to the summit. Once there, a staff member would unhook the cart, and the rider would face a choice: use the single centre-mounted brake handle or go full throttle.

Paul Vorvis poses for a photo with an original Sky Slider cart at the summit of the former Haliburton attraction. *Photo by Adam Frisk.*

"The carts had one handle in the middle. You pulled it, and it put the brake down," Casey explained. He noted that many riders skipped using the brakes, often resulting in "the odd bit of road rash" at the 90-degree turn near the finish line.

By the early 1990s, the Sky Slider interest began to fade. A waterslide was added to pique interest, but eventually, the equipment was sold off to a park in Peterborough, Casey said.

Today, the land is owned by Paul Vorvis, who still finds remnants of the park's height.

"I'm still finding stubby beer bottles up there," Vorvis joked, noting that the decommissioned hill became a popular party place for locals.

He said that while the forest has largely reclaimed the slope, some of the infrastructure still remains if you know what to look for.

"There were some aluminum cables that were buried up there," Vorvis recalled. The property owner managed to get his hands on one of the original carts and a collection of Sky Slider buttons a couple of years ago.

Vorvis said the legacy of the Sky Slider is set to be formalized. Rotary is working on historical information panels to be placed at Skyline Park as part of the club's revitalization project, with the attraction getting a shoutout in the County's recreational history.

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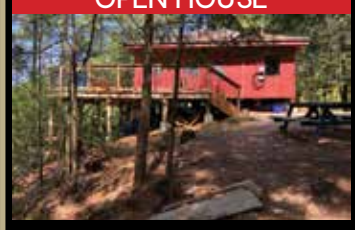


Andy Campbell* (705) 854-0292

Burdock Lake $524,900
- 2 Bedroom, 3 Season Cottage
- Very Neat with Many Upgrades
- OPEN HOUSE: Sat, June 13 @ 11am-1pm

SOLD

Gloria Carnochan* & Breann Budel* (705) 754-1932

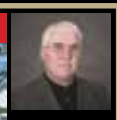
Redstone Lake
- 3-Bed, 2-Bath, Turnkey & Bright
- 2.5-Acre Point Lot with 550ft WF
- 3-Sided Lake Views & Private Trails

NEW PRICE

Mark Dennys* (705) 457-0473

Haliburton Lake $624,900
- 3 Beds/1 Bath, 4-Season Home/Cottage
- Boathouse, Dock, Large Deck, Garage
- 25 Mins to Haliburton, Yr-Round Access

NEW PRICE



Tom Ecclestone* (705) 754-5101

Minden Home $449,000
- In Town Minden Home 3 bdrms/2 baths
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Lindsay Elder* (705) 457-5878

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Kennisis Lake $700,000
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Andrew Hodgson** (705) 854-0130

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Susanne James* & Andy Mosher** (705) 457-2128 ext. 133

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- Steps to Access to Miskwabi Lake
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Karyn Linton Marra* (705) 306-7515

Long Lake Gem! $524,999
- Beautifully renovated top to bottom
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NEW LISTING

Kathy Martin* (705) 457-7592

Cozy Country Living $475,000
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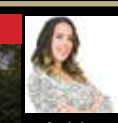
- Fenced Yard, Gardens, Minutes to Town
- Major Updates, Perennial Gardens

NEW LISTING



Ashley McKeigue* (705) 854-1833

Off-Grid Oasis $499,999
- Off-Grid Home on 47 Acres, Very Private
- 4 Bed, 2 Bath + Year-Rnd Solar Powered
- 15 Minutes to Haliburton, Trails, Hunting

NEW LISTING

Brandon Nimigon*** (705) 457-8631

Gull River Retreat $680,000
- Renovated 3 Bedroom Bungalow
- Direct Boat Access to Gull Lake
- New Septic, Dock & Guest Bunkie

NEW LISTING

Karen Nimigon** (705) 457-6505

Wigamog Road $725,000
- 4 Bedrooms, 2 Updated Baths, Sunroom
- Dtchd Garage w/ Loft, Mechanical Hoist
- Steps To Lake & Pinestone Golf Course

NEW LISTING

Kelly Kay* (705) 457-6841 Kirsten Rae* (705) 854-1454

Boshkung Lake $614,900
- Shallow sandy beach on Boshkung
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- Sunshine, views & lakefront fun!

NEW LISTING

Darlene Reil* (705) 854-2055

Wilberforce Home $359,900
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Melanie Vigrass* (705) 754-5494

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Travel-lover organizes Icelandic venture

By Mike Baker

Since discovering overseas travel in her 50s, Haliburton's Darla Searle has fully embraced the idea that the world is her oyster.

After organizing trips for highschoolers to popular European destinations like France, Germany and Italy and more exotic locales like Costa Rica, Searle has planned a seven-day excursion to Iceland in July 2028 – and she wants to bring members of the Highlands community along for the ride.

Searle, a teacher at Hal High, is working with EF Tours for the trip - the same group she partners with for the biennial student vacations. She said people pay a flat rate, which covers airfare, hotel, daily excursions and morning and evening meals. Planned for July 6 to 12, the trip will cost around $6,000 per person.

"This is one of those trips for couples or solo travellers who don't want to make any decisions, don't want any stress. Once we get off the plane, I'll be taking us where we're going for dinner. When we get up in the morning, I'll make sure everyone knows what the plans are for the day and that there's a bus to take us where we need to go," Searle said.

While Iceland wasn't necessarily on her bucket list when she began her jet-setting ways a decade ago, Searle was convinced after watching several prominent travel bloggers gush about the unique experiences on offer on the island nation.

"This is where the Vikings lived. The historical part of this trip is going to be amazing," she said.

Darla Searle is organizing a community trip to Iceland in July 2028. *Submitted.*

The group will fly into Reykjavik, the Icelandic capital, spending their first day at Viking World, a popular ship museum, and touring the city. On day two, they will travel to Hvolsvollur to visit Thingvellir National Park, where they'll spend time at the Gullfoss waterfall and Geysir geothermal area.

There will also be time to mingle with Icelandic horses and visit a traditional village in Vik. Searle said she's also looking forward to what will be a new first for her – walking on Solheimajokull Glacier.

"I'll be going for, literally, the coolest walk of my life," Searle said.

On their penultimate day, guests will visit a new state-of-the-art lava centre in Reykjavik to learn about the inner workings of volcanoes.

The country is a hotbed for volcanic activity. Over the past 15 years there have been two major eruptions, at Eyjafjallajokull in 2010, which ejected roughly 250 million tons of ash into the atmosphere, wreaking havoc on global travel; and the 2023 eruption of Fagradalsfjall.

The last day will be spent at the Blue Lagoon, a natural geothermal spa that has been named one of the 25 wonders of the world by National Geographic.

Searle is hosting a community presentation June 16, where people can learn more about the trip. It's taking place at the Haliburton Curling Club at 6:30 p.m. Anyone who signs up early will get $300 off their package, which can be paid for monthly, Searle said. For the trip to go ahead she needs to register at least six people.

"I watch a lot of travel shows and bloggers and Iceland is one of the few places that I've never heard a single person say 'well, that wasn't worth it'," Searle said. "This is your chance to immerse yourself in history, culture and stunning natural beauty – it's going to be magical."

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Composting

Composting is a simple way to reduce the amount of waste you dispose of. Dysart sells two composting units: Composters ($57 flat fee),and Digesters ($124 flat fee), that can be purchased at the Haliburton Landfill, 222 Industrial Park Road, Haliburton, during regular operating hours.

Composter

Composters use air, moisture and the layering ofdifferent materials to aid decomposition and create nutrient rich soil as a finished product.

50% "green" materials

Raw fruit and vegetables
Coffee grounds and filters, tea bags
Egg shells
Fresh (green) yard clippings, plants, leaves

50% "brown"materials

Dryleaves and plants
Dry sticks (broken up)
Hair and fur

Add materials, alternating between "green" and "brown" layers.

Turn the pile with a shovel to add air.

The pile should be as damp as a wrung-out sponge.

Digester

Digesters promote decomposition without air. Micro-organisms breakdown organic waste and it leaches into the ground, feeding plants that surround it. Digesters are considered more bear-proof.

Cooked food
Baked goods
Coffee grounds and filters, tea bags
Dairy
Eggs and egg shells
Green yard clippings, plants, leaves
Meat and bones
Raw fruit and vegetables

Place the digester over a 1 meter (3 foot) hole.

Install the digester and then start adding kitchen waste.

Limit meat/bone/fish for the first four to six weeks until the digester is established.

Digesters do NOT produce compost/humus.

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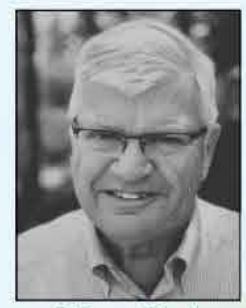
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Earl/Station Manager

Curtis Eastmure
Cecil

Meg Mardus
Mrs. Spencer/ Lucilla

Christine Jonas-Simpson
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Ruby Mansfield
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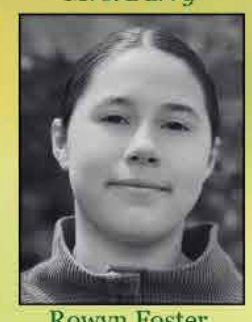
Penelope Irvine
Tillie Boulter

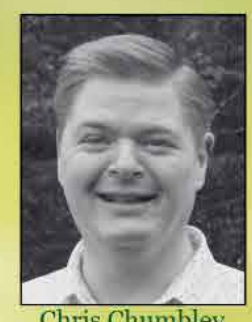
Brooke Gooley
Gertie Pye

Ruairí Byrne
Moody Sloane

Luna Marziali
Geraldine Buote


Rowyn Foster
Tammy Sloane

Aiofe Hogan
Missy Andrews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Sir Sam's Ski & Ride director of sales and events, Sharon Kennedy, shared her career journey. *Submitted.*

Hal High students explore careers

By Lisa Gervais

Students from the hospitality and tourism specialist high skills major (SHSM) program at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School recently had the opportunity to learn about career paths firsthand during a day-long industry tour co-ordinated by the County of Haliburton.

Eric Casper, the County's tourism co-ordinator, said the students learned that tourism and hospitality careers extend far beyond hotel front desks and restaurant kitchens; to include event planning, marketing, culinary arts, outdoor recreation, guest services, accommodations, and countless behind-the-scenes roles that help create memorable visitor experiences.

He said 21 students visited Sir Sam's Ski/Ride, Boshkung Smokehouse, and Haliburton Forest & Wild Life Reserve to gain real-world insight into the region's tourism and hospitality industry.

At Sir Sam's Ski/Ride, Casper said students learned about the realities of operating a four-season tourism destination, including weddings, events, food services, and seasonal recreation. Director of sales and events, Sharon Kennedy, shared her career journey and emphasized tourism and hospitality offer strong opportunities for advancement and travel.

Kennedy told students many successful careers begin in entry-level positions, such as starting as a dishwasher, server, or lift operator, but they can provide valuable experience and open doors to management, sales, marketing, and event planning roles over time.

"Sir Sam's Ski/Ride welcomed the opportunity to give students an inside look at the dynamic world of hospitality and tourism," Kennedy said. "Experiential learning plays a vital role in helping students connect classroom learning with real-world industry experience."

She added opportunities such as this help students build confidence while gaining a deeper understanding of the wide range of careers available within the industry.

The group visited Boshkung Smokehouse, at Haliburton Forest, where students learned about culinary tourism and restaurant operations. Casper said the discussion turned to the use of artificial intelligence within the food industry. Examples included using AI tools to assist with nutritional labeling and menu information, helping simplify tasks that once took significantly more time to complete manually. He added there were discussions about smoking meats, food preparation, and restaurant operations, with students hearing an important message about perseverance and resilience.

Forest general manager, Tegan Legge, provided a behind-the-scenes look at the moving parts required to operate a large tourism destination. Students toured accommodations, operations areas, and the wolf centre, while learning about guest services, bookings, maintenance, environmental management, and outdoor recreation experiences.

Legge encouraged students to pursue careers connected to their passions and spoke about the importance of flexibility within the industry. She highlighted examples of staff members helping to develop unique visitor experiences, such as a clay shooting program, while also taking on a variety of additional roles throughout the operation.

Casper said the tour was designed to give students insight into one of the region's most important industries, while connecting them directly with local employers and professionals.

"Experiences like this allow students to see the many different career pathways available within tourism and hospitality," Casper said. "From culinary arts and accommodations to events, recreation, and marketing, the industry offers opportunities for many different skillsets and personalities."

Hi

ALL ABOUT HI, THE HIGHLANDER'S NEW APP

Why we made it

Three years ago, Meta banned Canadian media companies from Facebook and Instagram. Since then, the quality of information on these platforms has deteriorated. Instead of trustworthy news, there is misinformation, anger, and division. We believe that's bad for Haliburton County.

We created this app to solve that problem: to make a space that is just for our community, without the downsides of social media.

What's on it

You'll find verified, accurate news from our reporters, including breaking news alerts. You will also find information from local not-for-profits, service organizations and municipalities. The feed is in strict chronological order – there's no algorithm to track or manipulate you.

How to get it

The best way is to go to thehighlander.app on your cellphone On your first visit, you'll get a message encouraging you to install the app on your phone. Click this and the app will appear on your home screen so you can easily find it again.

How to use it

You don't need to create an account to use the app. But if you do, there are two benefits. First, you can choose which categories you want to see. Second, you can get notifications on your phone. There's a breaking news category, so anytime there is something urgent and important happening in the county, you can be notified. To create an account, just follow the links on the screen.

Why you can't comment on it

We know you might enjoy commenting on Facebook. But a downside of comments is that misinformation can spread. Without moderation, which is an impossible job for us, the value of the app would be lost. The Highlander's reporters are trained journalists, which means they follow rules so that what they post is as accurate as possible. They are also accountable because they live and work in our community. If they make a mistake, readers tell us – and we fix it. We hope that this approach will create an environment that is useful and pleasant.

How to advertise on Hi

We will be funding the app by offering a limited number of spots to local advertisers who want to reach people in Haliburton County. For more information, contact Aidan (aidan@thehighlander.ca).

How to give us feedback

Email Adam (adam@thehighlander.ca) or stop by our office in Haliburton village.

It's nicer here

Hi has a slogan: It's nicer here. Imagine getting all your important news and information about Haliburton County from a trustworthy source. No algorithms, no trolls, no lies. Just 100% pure news and information. It's calm and friendly. It's real. Just like our beautiful Highlands. It's nicer here.

thehighlander.app

What's on

The horse pull is a popular event at the Haliburton County Fair. *File photo by Adam Frisk*.

Fair returns with unstoppable spirit

By Adam Frisk
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

While many small-town agricultural fairs across Ontario are facing declines, the Haliburton County Fair is proving to be unstoppable, thanks to the backbone of the community.

On Saturday (June 13), the Minden fairgrounds will be a bustling place with agricultural traditions and brand-new attractions designed to bring out the kid in everyone. Gates open early at 8:30 a.m. for the light horse show, kicking off a jam-packed day of community fun.

"We're getting off to an early start on Saturday," Minden Agricultural Society's Cathy Fisher told *The Highlander.*

Organizers have added several fresh features to the lineup this year to keep the momentum growing, including a brand-new Lego-themed area featuring a massive, life-sized Lego chair where families can stop to get their picture taken.

The fairgrounds will also have classic staples like face painting, a chainsaw artist, bouncy castles, and the "zoo to you" animal exhibit inside the curling club building. A major highlight is the 3 p.m. charity auction, featuring high-value items entirely donated by local businesses, like a load of logs, road crush, and wooden carvings.

Even Smokey Bear is scheduled to make a special appearance, provided the area fire hazard levels remain safe on Saturday.

Fisher said that this year's preparation wasn't without its logistical hurdles when a sudden health issue left the fair short-staffed at the admission gates. That's when Minden's local network didn't hesitate, with the Rotary Club immediately stepping up to the plate, volunteering to man the gates and keep the lines moving.

"I can't say enough about our sponsors, volunteers, and our community. Fairs everywhere are in trouble, and many are thinking of disbanding," Fisher said. "I am so proud that our little fair is coming back and getting bigger every single year. We couldn't put this on without everyone stepping up to the plate."

Admission to the fairgrounds is $10 for adults and $5 for children aged five and older.

Paddling Film Festival

Also happening on Saturday is the 2026 Paddling Film Festival at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion. The event features a lineup of award-winning adventure films that capture the unique paddling lifestyle. Doors open at 6 p.m., with the screening kicking off at 6:30 p.m.

All proceeds will directly fund outdoor programs for local youth in the Haliburton and Minden areas to help foster a lifelong passion for nature and water sports. There will be raffle prizes and light refreshments by donation from the Haliburton Muskoka Kawartha Children's Water Festival. Tickets are available for $20.

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What's on

Celebrating spring

Archie Stouffer Elementary School held its spring carnival June 4. There were hot dogs, ice cream, freezies and maple cones; a very popular foam dance party, a book fair, community partners, touch a truck, and raffles.

Top: Chase Casey checks out Jim Bird's motorcycle. Bottom left: Holly Carpenter has a blast during the foam dance party. Bottom right: Logan Stancati gets all foamed up. *Photos by Lisa Gervais.*

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NOTICE OF A SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING - COMMUNITY-WIDE AFFORDABILITY AND GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE STUDY

Take Notice there will be a Special Meeting of Council held Thursday, June 18, 2026 at 1:00 PM in the Council Chambers, located at 7 Milne Street, Minden, ON.

The Special Council Meeting is being held for a facilitated session with the Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN) to gather Council's input for the Community-wide Affordability and Governance Structure Study."

The Special Council meeting will be conducted via web conference and in-person. Please visit our website for further details.

VISIT ELECTION STAFF AT THE FAIR

Minden Hills Election staff will have an info booth at the Haliburton County Fair on June 13th! Visit us and learn about 3 ways to vote, voter registration, and important election dates.

SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION

Summer camp registration is open with space still available in some of our weeks of camp. Register online or in person at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena front desk, (705) 286-1260 ext.554, www.mindenhills.ca/recreation.

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

• *The 2026 Members' Exhibition of the Arts Council ~ Haliburton Highlands* will be on display until July 18. Featuring over 40 local artists, the mixed-media exhibition is presented in partnership with the Art in Public Spaces Committee of the Arts Council ~ Haliburton Highlands, the Agnes Jamieson Gallery, and Fielding Estate Winery. Admission is by donation.

• *Museum of Her*, a new exhibition by artist Michèle Karch-Ackerman will be on display in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery (Kirkwood Room) until July 18. Admission is by donation.

• *Miijim: Traditional Foods of the Anishinaabeg*, on loan from The MUSE: Lake of the Woods Museum in Kenora, was created in partnership between MUSE, Iskatewizaagegan No. 39 Independent First Nation, and the Natural Resources Institute of the University of Manitoba. The exhibit focuses on miijim - food - and its importance to the body, mind, soul, and heart of the Anishinaabeg. The exhibit will be on display at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre until August 29.

• The Unfinished Objects (UFO) Craft group will be meeting on Friday, June 12 from 1:00 – 3:00 PM in the Welch Room.

• The Minden Hills Museum and Heritage Village, and Nature's Place is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm for tours and self-guided activities! Stop by Fridays at 11 am for the Toddler Discover Zone, and Saturdays at 11 am for Hands-On activities! All are welcome. Admission is by donation.

For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING: TOWNSHIP'S FEES AND CHARGES BY-LAW

Take notice that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will be holding a Public Meeting on Thursday, June 25, 2026, during its Regular Council Meeting regarding proposed changes of the Township's Fees and Charges By-law to:

• Schedule A – Building
• Schedule I – Environment Water, Sewer, and Landfill

The meeting will commence at 9:00 AM in the Council Chambers located at 7 Milne Street, Minden ON. Details of proposed changes will be made available in the coming week.

For more information, please visit our website.

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

• June 11 – Regular Council Meeting
• June 18 – Special Council Meeting
• June 25 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

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What's on

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Office open 9 a.m. to noon, clubroom closed.
Tuesdays: Cadets after school starts at 5 p.m., meeting starts at 6 p.m. Games and cards night starting at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome. Darts league 7 p.m. start.
Wednesdays: Office and clubroom closed
Thursdays: General meeting third Thursday of the month, March to December; ladies auxiliary meeting last Thursday of the month, February to November.
Fridays: Meat draw, five draws, five prize each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets are $2 per draw; fun darts at 4:30 p.m. onwards; 50/50 draw at 5 p.m., tickets are $1 and available in the clubroom.
Saturdays: Open only for special events
Clubroom hours: Monday closed; Tuesday 5-9 p.m.; Wednesday closed; Thursday 3-6 p.m., Friday 3-7 p.m., Saturday/Sunday closed.

Royal Canadian Legion - Mabel D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden

Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Monday to Thursday** with regular menu and daily special including Liver Lovers' **Tuesday**.
Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner 4-7 p.m.
Saturday all day breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541
Weekly activities:
Karaoke: call for dates
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week.
Monday: Euchre 1-3 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1-3 p.m., Darts 7-9 p.m. and euchre 7-9 p.m.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 624 Wilberforce

Monday: open 7 to 10 p.m.
Tuesday: closed, special events only..
Wednesday: open 2 to 10 p.m.
Thursday: open 2 to 10 p.m.
Friday: open 2 to 11 p.m.
Saturday: open 2 to 9 p.m.
Sunday: closed, special events only.

Royal Canadian Legion – Branch 566 Cardiff

Hours: Sunday and Monday 3 to 6 p.m. and **Thursday** 3 to 9 p.m.
Events: Breakfast on the first **Sunday** of each month from 9 to 11 a.m.; euchre on the second **Sunday** of each month at 12:30 p.m.
Shuffleboard every **Thursday** from 7 to 9 p.m.
Music and jam session ever second **Saturday** of the month from 1 to 4 p.m. Everyone welcome.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 441 Kinmount

Mondays: Bid euchre at 1 p.m.
Tuesdays: Closed
Wednesdays: Mixed darts at 7:30 p.m.
Thursdays: Closed
Fridays: Clubroom opens at 4 p.m. Bingo, doors open at 5 p.m. with play beginning at 6:45 p.m. Supper specials starting at 5 p.m.
Saturdays: Clubroom opens at 3 p.m. Meat draw at 5:30 p.m.
Third Thursday of the month is the executive meeting at 7 p.m. and general meeting at 7:30 p.m. Third **Sunday** of the month is the ladies auxiliary meeting.

EVENTS

June 12, 7:30 p.m. Enjoy an evening of joyful music at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion as Jocelyn Regina directs 'my pop choir and friends'. Special guests include Lauren McCauley, Kate Hall, Lauren McInnes, Earworms and HSF Players. Tickets are $25 for adults, $18 for youth.

June 13, all day. The Haliburton County Fair takes over the Minden Fairgrounds. Come out to experience great food, exhibitors, live entertainment and much more.

June 13, 4 to 7:30 p.m. 'A Taste of Italy' workshop hosted by Daniela Pagliaro at Abbey Gardens (1012 Garden Gate Dr.). In this hands-on event you'll learn to create spiral pasta and pair it with Pesto alla Trapanese. For tickets, visit www.abbeygardens.ca/event-details/a-taste-of-italy-in-the-haliburton-highlands.

June 14, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. SIRCH Repair Café returns, running at the bistro and bakery located at 49 Maple Ave. in Haliburton. From small appliances to household items, volunteer fixers will do their best to help bring things back to life. Running every second Sunday of the month until October.

June 14, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Land stewardship day at Barnum Creek Nature Reserve, hosted by the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust. Are you curious about how wildlife use the forest, or learning how to manage your woodlot for wildlife habitat? Meeting at the Barnum Creek upper parking lot at the trailhead. Snacks and water will be provided.

June 14, noon to 3 p.m. Aging Together as Community Haliburton Highlands is hosting a free musical event at the West Guilford Recreational Centre. 'We've Got Rhythm' will feature music from Gary Baumgartner & Mixed Bag, Marci Mandel and Biljana Webb and Bollywood dancing by Yasmin. There will be face painting and children's activities. Register by June 8 at agingtogetherhc@gmail.com or 705-879-9412.

June 16, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Visit Head Lake Park in Haliburton every Tuesday through summer for the Haliburton County Farmers Market. Find everything from locally-grown fruits and vegetables, soaps, health and wellness products, smokes meats, imported cheese, dog treats, maple syrup and more. Runs every Tuesday in Haliburton until Oct. 6 and Saturday in Minden until Oct. 10.

June 16, 12:45 p.m. The Haliburton duplicate bridge club has games twice a week, every Wednesday in the Parklane Apartments games room and Friday in the Echo Hills Apartments games room. Contact Linda Cherry at 705-455-2656 or Terry and Betty Rombough at 705-927-8811 for more information.

June 18, 1 p.m. The Minden Hills Cultural Centre is hosting a free screening of Wilfred Buck, a documentary on the Cree Elder and his teachings on astronomy and cosmology. Admission is free, no pre-registration required.

June 19, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Haliburton Highlands Quilt Guild is hosting a quilting show at the Minden Curling Club. Come out to see some amazing pieces made by talented locals. All are welcome. Also running June 20.

June 20, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Bookapalooza at the Minden Community Centre. More than 40 local exhibitors showcasing their works. Book signing with authors Marissa Stapley and Bianca Marais. Admission is free.

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What's on

Skyline busts a move

Dozens of young Highlanders shone under the bright lights in Haliburton this past weekend as Skyline Dance Studio held its 2026 spring recital. With four performances June 5-7, dancers showcased their skills in tap, acro, hip hop, ballet, jazz and contemporary. There were 47 routines performed, with the crowd enjoying cute renditions from tiny dancers and highly-skilled, complicated sets from multi-year stage veterans.

Top left: Alexis Dacey waves a pompom through the air in 'No Bad Vibes' from the senior jazz class. Bottom left: Keira Dacey looks shocked during 'Both Reached for the Gun' by the inter/senior musical theatre class. Top right: The jazz class for kids aged six to nine performed 'These Boots'. Second right: Ava Woodard flashes a pose while Audrey Adams can't watch in 'Shake Your Tailfeather' from the recreational tap class. Third right: Reese Wood (right) gets serious with Aubriana Davison and Skye Upton in 'Both Reached for the Gun'. Fourth right: Erin McGregor stands out in 'What's the Buzz' from the mini and junior hip hop class. Fifth right: The musical theatre class aced 'Consider Yourself' from *Oliver.* Bottom right: Mea Iles and Rylie Miscio shone brightly in 'Turn all the Lights on', a hip hop duet. *Photos by Mike Baker.*

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FOR SALE - 2025 FORTRESS S-425 electric scooter + enclosed trailer with ramp for sale. Both in excellent condition. Call or text Carole @ 416-843-7938.

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WANTED

WANTED – Scrap metal, fridges, stoves, any metal. We will pick up. Please call 519-820-5701 this is a Gooderham phone number.

LOST

LOST – Small staircase, right hand handrail, probably floated away on 12 Mile Lake. Maybar Road area. Please call 705-489-1695

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED- PSW needed July 14-August 30th to bathe an elderly couple twice a week. Located on Benoir Lake off of Elephant Lake Road. Please contact Dee @ 705-306-0093 for details.

HELP WANTED- 1-3x/week. $30+/hr to start; pay negotiable based on experience/ session length. theheartwoodfarm@gmail.com

OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of

Albert Henry Carpenter

(Retired from MNR after 34 years of service).

It is with heavy hearts we announce the passing of Albert on Saturday, June 6, 2026 at his home in Carnarvon, at the age of 77.

A devoted of husband of the late Judy (nee Harrison) (February 16, 2026). Dear loving dad of Angie and her husband Rich Chapple, Scott Carpenter and adored poppy of Josh. Dear brother of Doug (deceased) and Barbara, Wanda and Peter Robinson, Ivan and Jean (deceased), Fern and Roger (deceased) Bellwood. Loved and remembered by his many nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Albert enjoyed making his family, friends and colleagues laugh with his quick wit and love of jokes, which he seemed to have a never ending supply of. He was a good listener, and always glad to lend a hand.

A Graveside Memorial Service and Interment will be held at the Twelve Mile Lake Cemetery, 1112 Chambers Road, Carnarvon on Friday, August 28, 2026 at 1:00 pm. Reception to follow at the Monk-Cray Family Centre in the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home, 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) or Highland Hills United Church would be appreciated by the family.

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

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NOTICE

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS - Sundays - 10:30 am at St. Anthony's, 27 Victoria Street Haliburton. Thinking about alcohol. Thinking about stopping. We've been there. We can help!

AL ANON- WE CARE, are you troubled by someone's drinking? Meetings: Thursdays 7 p.m., St. Anthony's 27 Victoria Street, Haliburton, and Mondays 7 p.m. at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle, Rear Entrance, Minden. 1-888-4AL-ANON (1-888-425-2666) al-anon.org All are welcome.

HELP WANTED

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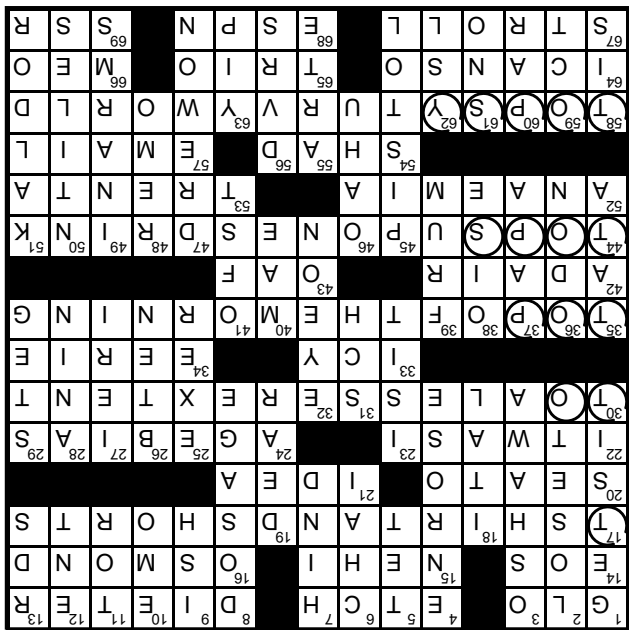
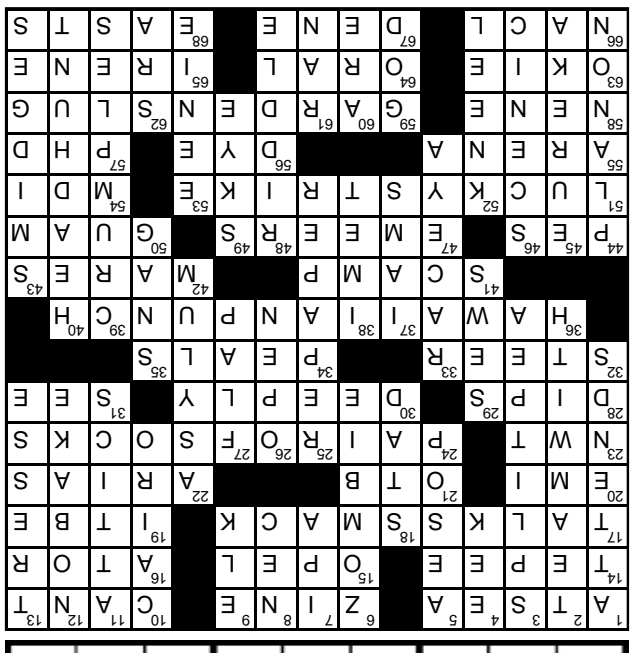
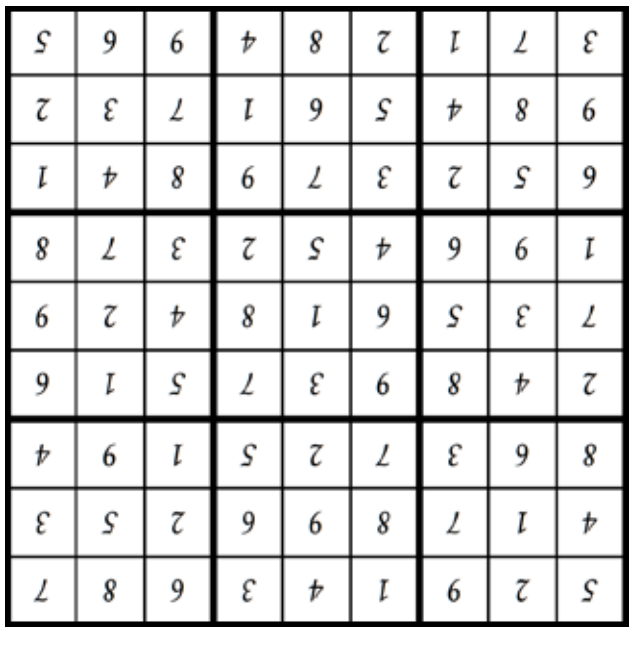


THIS WEEK'S SOLUTIONS





CELEBRATION OF LIFE

I would like to thank everyone for coming to help celebrate Joan's life.

Her and I have been married for 64 wonderful years. She was my partner, my love, and a great mother to Paula and Wade.

She was a hairdresser for most of her working life and a manager at Woodland Ranch for 30 years.

Hope to see you at Parklane Apts. 1 Victoria St. at 1:00 pm. Sunday June 14th, Haliburton

THANK YOU

We, the family and friends of Ed Burke, the "Old Fart," wish to express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to everyone who offered kindness, support, prayers, flowers, cards, donations, and messages of sympathy during our recent loss.

We are deeply grateful to all who attended the funeral service and helped us celebrate Ed's life and memory. He will be remembered for his sense of humour, his willingness to help the less fortunate, and his devotion to his family, friends, and country.

A special thank you to the Royal Canadian Legion, the Ontario Provincial Police (Minden Detachment), Monk's Funeral Home, the caregivers at Haliburton Hospital, and all those who assisted with the arrangements and service.

Ed will be lovingly remembered and sadly missed by all who knew him. **We love you Old Fart!**

- Sheila Burke, Denise Douville, Janelle Nesbitt & families

HELP WANTED

Township of Algonquin Highlands
Public Works Department

We are currently accepting resumes for the following position:

Maintenance Worker

Visit our website at: www.algonquinhighlands.ca for the complete details.

Qualified candidates are invited to submit a cover letter and resume by
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Dawn Mugford-Guay
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Highlander puzzles

Kapow!

by Barbara Olson
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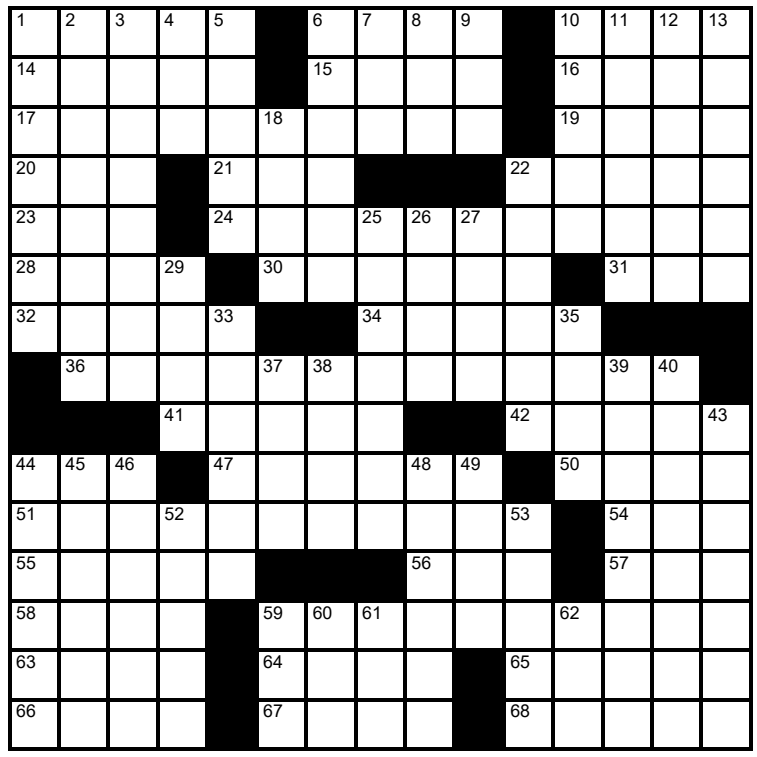

Across

1 On a naval mission
6 Fan mag
10 Unable to
14 Home with a smoke hole: Var.
15 Astra automaker
16 Ending for decor or fabric
17 Discusses slapping styles?
19 "Who Can __ Now?" (Men at Work song)
20 RCA studio rival
21 Betting parlour letters
22 "Pagliacci" pieces
23 Yukon neighbour: Abbr.
24 The old one-two?
28 Hummus and salsa
30 From the heart
31 Holy ___ (Pope's domain)
32 Take the wheel
34 Bell tower sounds
36 Jab from a Honolulu boxer?
41 Little rascal
42 Fillies after four years
44 Foot, in anatomy
47 Arab bigwigs: Var.
50 U.S. Pacific territory
51 Surprisingly successful blow?
54 1501, in Old Rome
55 Hockey parent's hangout
56 Go green, maybe?
57 Prof's degree
58 Goose of the Aloha State
59 Wallop in Eden?
63 "Grapes of Wrath" figure
64 Like much traditional lore
65 "Fame" star Cara
66 3.5% of seawater, chemically
67 First Nation of Canada's north
68 Right directions?

Down

1 Goes to
2 Join forces, as in sport
3 Green soup ingredient
4 Frightened sound in toons
5 Ancient fabulist
6 Highly potent rum drink
7 Lager alternative
8 Tokyo-based I.T. co.
9 Edmonton CFLer
10 "Death on the Nile" city
11 Rooms entered head first
12 Easy to prepare, as a cake
13 French braid?
18 End of many Dutch town names
22 Haven for refugees
25 Update the wall covering
26 Daytime store sign
27 Agitated state
29 Hems but doesn't haw
33 "Try 'n beat me!"
35 Grab quickly
37 "Good for Life" cat food
38 TV's "How ___ Your Mother"
39 Wads up, as paper
40 Scout out work talent
43 Tiny amounts
44 Intend to do
45 Archimedes' cry, supposedly
46 Picturesque
48 "When is a door not a door?", for one
49 "Say Anything" actress Ione
52 Prepare to propose or pray
53 "___ Meenie" (Justin Bieber song)
59 Margaret's addressee in a Blume book
60 " ___ we having fun yet?"
61 Made a nylon ladder?
62 Mrs. in Madrid

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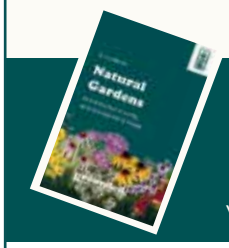

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